Please amend the claims as follows. This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and Listings of Claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A computer system comprising:

a processor;

a memory storage unit;

an operating system comprising a kernel, said kernel comprising a plurality of kernel modules, said kernel modules comprising signature information; and

a kernel module signature verification system for verifying said kernel module signature information of each of said plurality of kernel modules as said plurality of kernel modules are loaded into said kernel, wherein said kernel module signature information is generated via a public key and a private key compilation in said kernel module said kernel module signature verification system includes, (a) a kernel cryptographic framework for verifying said kernel module signature information, and (b) a kernel cryptographic framework daemon for (i) performing verification lookup operations of signature information provided to said kernel cryptographic framework in said kernel, and (ii) performing module verification of said plurality of kernel modules,

wherein said kernel cryptographic framework retrieves pathname information of said signature information for each of said plurality of kernel modules when said plurality of kernel modules attempt to load up to said kernel to perform cryptographic operations.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 1, wherein said kernel module signature information comprises signature length data unique to each of said plurality of

kernel modules, said signature length data used by said kernel module signature verification system in uniquely identifying each of said plurality of kernel modules.

4.   (Original) The computer system of claim 3, wherein said kernel module signature information further comprises signature size data for further uniquely identifying each of said kernel module.

5. - 8 . (Cancelled)

9.   (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 1 [[8]], wherein said kernel cryptographic framework comprises a cryptographic service provider registration unit for registering each of said plurality of kernel modules wishing to provide cryptographic services in said kernel.

10.   (Original) The computer system of claim 9, wherein said kernel cryptographic framework further comprises a intra-kernel communication unit for enabling communications between said kernel cryptographic framework and said kernel cryptographic framework daemon.

11.   (Original) The computer system of claim 10, wherein said kernel cryptographic framework further comprises a data structure unit for storing said kernel module signature information.

12. - 24.   (Cancelled)

25.   (Currently amended) In a computer system, a computer software implemented kernel module signature verification system, comprising:

kernel cryptographic framework for verifying signatures uniquely defining each of a

plurality of kernel cryptographic modules; and

kernel cryptographic framework daemon for performing module verification for each

of said plurality of kernel cryptographic modules, wherein said kernel cryptographic

framework daemon retrieves pathname information of said signature information for each of

said plurality of kernel modules when said plurality of kernel modules attempt to load up to

said kernel to perform cryptographic operations;

wherein said kernel cryptographic framework further comprises an intra-kernel

communication unit for enabling communications between said kernel cryptographic

framework and said kernel cryptographic framework daemon.

26.   (Cancelled)

27.   (Previously presented) The kernel module signature verification system of claim 25,

wherein said kernel cryptographic framework comprises a cryptographic service provider

registration unit for registering each of said plurality of kernel modules wishing to provide

cryptographic services in said kernel.

28.   (Cancelled)

29.   (Currently amended) The kernel module signature verification system of claim 27

[[28]], wherein said kernel cryptographic framework further comprises a data structure unit

for storing said kernel module signature information.

30.   (Original) The kernel module signature verification system of claim 29, wherein said

kernel cryptographic framework and said kernel cryptographic framework daemon

communicate via a plurality of input/output control commands.

31. -36 (Cancelled)